

FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION POLICY DECISION

POLICY TITLE: Columbia River Smelt
(Eulachon)

POLICY NUMBER: C-3612

Page: 1 of 1

Cancels: N/A

Effective Date: December 8, 2000

See Also: Policy C-3012

Approved By: Russ Cahill

This policy provides guidance for the harvest and habitat management of Columbia River smelt (Eulachon).

Conservation Policies:

- The Department shall maintain healthy populations of Columbia River smelt while assuring the integrity of the ecosystem and habitat upon which they depend.
- Fishery management plans will consider the role of smelt in both the marine and the freshwater ecosystems and the need to maintain sufficient populations of smelt for proper ecosystem functioning.
- A precautionary approach to resource management shall be utilized.
- If insufficient information exists, or the condition of the resource is poor, a conservative approach to fisheries will be taken.
- The Department shall consider the best scientific information available and shall strive to improve the information base for Columbia River smelt.

Harvest Policy:

- Commercial and recreational fishing opportunity shall be maintained in the lower Columbia River, to include opportunities in both the mainstem and tributaries for both fleets.